His Grace the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*'s Letter to the Right Reverend the Lords Biſhops of His Province.

William Wake

Weſtminſter, June 5, 1716.

My very good Lord,

BEING *by the Providence of God called to the Metropolitical See of this Province, I thought it Incumbent upon Me to conſult as many of my Brethren, the Biſhops of the ſame Province, as were here met together during this Seſſion of Parliament, in what manner We might beſt employ that Authority, which the Eccleſiaſtical Laws now in force, and the Cuſtoms and Laws of this Realm, have veſted in Us, for the Honour of God, and for the Edification of His Church, committed to our Charge: And upon ſerious Conſideration of this Matter, We All of Us agreed in the ſame Opinion, that We ſhould, by the Bleſſing of God upon our Honeſt Endeavours, in ſome meaſure promote thoſe good Ends, by taking care (as much as in us lieth) that* no Unworthy Perſons might hereafter be admitted into the Sacred Miniſtry of the Church; *Nor any* be allowed to ſerve as Curates, but ſuch as ſhould appear to be duly qualified for ſuch an Employ; *And that* all who Officiated in the Room of any Abſent Miniſters, ſhould reſide upon the Cures which they undertook to ſupply; *and* be aſcertain'd of a ſuitable Recompence for their Labours.

In purſuance of thoſe Reſolutions, to which we unanimouſly agreed, I do now very earneſtly Recommend to you;

I. THAT you require of every Perſon who deſires to be admitted to Holy Orders, that he ſignify to you his Name, and Place of Abode, and tranſmit to you his Teſtimonial, and a Certificate of his Age duly atteſted, with the Title upon which he is to be Ordained, at leaſt Twenty Days before the Time of Ordination; and that

that he appear on *Wedneſday*, or at fartheſt on *Thurſday* in *Ember-Week* in order to his Examination.

II. That if you ſhall reject any Perſon, who applies for Holy Orders, upon the Account of Immorality proved againſt him, you ſignify the Name of the Perſon ſo rejected, with the Reaſon of your rejecting him, to me within one Month; that ſo I may acquaint the reſt of my Suffragans with the Caſe of ſuch rejected Perſon before the next Ordination.

III. That you admit not any Perſon to Holy Orders, who having reſided any conſiderable Time out of the Univerſity, does not ſend to you, with his Teſtimonial, a Certificate ſigned by the Miniſter, and other credible Inhabitants of the Pariſh, where he ſo reſided, expreſſing that Notice was given in the Church, in Time of Divine Service, on ſome *Sunday*, at leaſt a Month before the Day of Ordination, of his Intention to offer himſelf to be Ordained at ſuch a time; to the end that any Perſon, who knows any Impediment, or Notable Crime, for the which he ought not to be Ordained, may have Opportunity to make his Objections againſt him.

IV. That you admit no Letters Teſtimonial, on any Occaſion whatſoever, unleſs it be therein expreſſed, for what particular End, and Deſign, ſuch Letters are granted; nor unleſs it be declared by thoſe who ſhall ſign them, that they have perſonally known the Life and Behaviour of the Perſon for the Time by them certified; and do believe in their Conſcience, that he is qualified for that Order, Office, or Employment, to which he deſires to be admitted.

V. That in all Teſtimonials ſent from any College or Hall, in either of the Univerſities, you expect that they be ſign'd, as well as ſealed; and that among the Perſons ſigning, the Governor of ſuch College, or Hall, or, in his Abſence, the next Perſon under ſuch Governor, with the Dean, or Reader of Divinity, and the Tutor of the Perſon to whom the Teſtimonial is granted, (ſuch Tutor being in the College, and ſuch Perſon being under the Degree of Maſter of Arts,) do ſubſcribe their Names.

VI. That you admit not any Perſon to Holy Orders upon Letters Dimiſſory, unleſs they are granted by the Biſhop himſelf, or Guardian of the Spiritualities *Sede vacante*, nor unleſs it be expreſſed in ſuch Letters, that he who grants them, has fully ſatisfied himſelf of the Title, and Converſation of the Perſon to whom the Letter is granted.

VII. That you make diligent Enquiry concerning Curates in your Dioceſe, and proceed to Eccleſiaſtical Cenſures againſt thoſe who ſhall preſume to ſerve Cures without being firſt duly Licenſed thereunto; as alſo againſt all ſuch Incumbents who ſhall receive and employ them, without firſt obtaining ſuch Licence.

VIII. That

VIII. That you do not by any means admit of any Miniſter, who removes from another Dioceſe, to ſerve as a Curate in yours, without Teſtimony of the Biſhop of that Dioceſe, or Ordinary of the peculiar Juriſdiction, from whence he comes, in Writing, of his Honeſty, Ability, and Conformity to the Eccleſiaſtical Laws of the Church of *England*.

IX. That you do not allow any Miniſter to ſerve more than one Church, or Chapel, in one Day, except that Chapel be a Member of the Pariſh-Church, or united thereunto; and unleſs the ſaid Church or Chapel, where ſuch a Miniſter ſhall ſerve in two Places, be not able in your Judgment to maintain a Curate.

X. That in the Inſtrument of Licence granted to any Curate, you appoint him a ſufficient Salary according to the Power veſted in you by the Laws of the Church, and the particular Direction of a late Act of Parliament for the better Maintenance of Curates.

XI. That in Licences to be granted to Perſons to ſerve any Cure, you cauſe to be inſerted, after the mention of the particular Cure provided for by ſuch Licence, a Clauſe to this Effect, *or in any other Pariſh within the Dioceſe, to which ſuch Curate ſhall remove with the Conſent of the Biſhop.*

XII. That you take care, as much as is poſſible, that whoſoever is admitted to ſerve any Cure, do Reſide in the Pariſh where he is to ſerve; eſpecially in Livings that are able to ſupport a Reſident Curate: And where that cannot be done, that they do at leaſt Reſide ſo near to the Place, that they may conveniently perform all their Duties both in the Church and Pariſh.

Theſe, My Lord, were the Orders and Reſolutions, to which We All agreed; and which I do hereby tranſmit to you; deſiring you to Communicate them to the Clergy of your Dioceſe, with an Aſſurance that you are Reſolved, by the Grace of God, to direct your Practice, in theſe Particulars, agreeably thereunto. And ſo commending you to the Bleſſing of God in theſe, and all your other pious Endeavours, for the Service of his Church, I heartily remain,

My very Good Lord,

Your truly affectionate Brother,

W. Cant.

B Cantsham

HELI: ſive Exemplum Magiſtratus intempeſtiva Lenitate peccantis.

CONCIO

HABITA IN

TEMPLO B. *MARIÆ*

CORAM

ARTIUM BACCALAUREIS

DETERMINANTIBUS

DIE CARNIS-PRIVII FEB. 10. 1725.

A JOANNE BURTON A. M. C. C. C. Soc.
Proc. Jun. Dep. & Mag. Schol.

OXONIÆ,

E THEATRO SHELDONIANO, MDCCXXIX.

Impenſis Viduæ FLETCHER.

Proſt. ven. apud *J. Knapton*, *C. Rivinton* Bibliopol. in Cœmeterio Paulino, & *C. King* in Aul. Weſtmonaſter. & *C. Crownfield* Cantabrig.